

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for generating a child timeline, comprising the steps of:

selecting a portion of ~~an existing~~a parent timeline;
generating the child timeline based on the portion of the ~~existing~~parent timeline; and
dynamically-linking the child timeline to the ~~existing~~parent timeline such that when the parent timeline is updated, the child timeline is automatically updated.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of adding to the child timeline at least one data item from the portion of the ~~existing~~parent timeline.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2 wherein the at least one data item is associated with a first location on the ~~existing~~parent timeline and the first location is associated with a first time, the step of adding to the child timeline comprising the step of adding the at least one data item to a location on the child timeline corresponding to the first time.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3 wherein the at least one data item is selected from the group consisting of a milestone data item and a time interval data item.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of displaying through a graphical user interface a interrelationship between the ~~existing~~parent timeline and the child timeline in response to generating the child timeline.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 5 wherein the interrelationship is displayed by placing an icon on the portion of existingthe parent timeline and by visually connecting the child timeline to the portion of existingthe parent timeline.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of selecting the portion of the existingparent timeline comprises selecting the portion of the existingparent timeline in response to placing an icon onto the existingparent timeline.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of generating a child timeline comprises establishing a timeline comprising a first end representing a time corresponding to a location on the portion of existingthe parent timeline and a second end corresponding to another location on the portion of existingthe parent timeline.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of dynamically-linking the child timeline to the existingparent timeline comprises the steps of: associating the child timeline with the portion of the existingparent timeline; and modifying the child timeline in response to modifying the portion of the existingparent timeline, wherein the modification to the child timeline is the same as the modification to the portion of the existingparent timeline.

10. (Original) A computer-implemented method for modifying timeline information, wherein a first timeline is dynamically-linked to a second timeline such that the second timeline is associated with a portion of the first timeline, comprising the steps of:
modifying the first timeline;
determining if the modification affects the first timeline at the portion of the first timeline associated with second timeline; and
if the modification affects the first timeline at the portion of the first timeline associated with second timeline, then modifying the second timeline in the same way as the first timeline.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10 wherein the step of modifying the first timeline comprises adding a data item from a group comprising a milestone data item and a time interval data item.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 10 wherein the step of modifying the first timeline comprises changing a data item existing on the first timeline prior to the performance of the step of modifying the first timeline.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for dynamically-linking a child timeline to an existinga parent timeline comprising:

a drawing sheet module; and

a timeline module, logically coupled to the drawing sheet module, operable to select a portion of an-existinga parent timeline in response to an action, generate the child timeline based on the portion of the existingparent timeline, and dynamically-link the child timeline to the existingparent timeline such that when the parent timeline is updated, the child timeline is automatically updated.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 13, wherein the timeline module is further operable to add to the child timeline at least one data item from the portion of the existingparent timeline.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 13, wherein the timeline module is further operable to display through a graphical user interface the interrelationship between the existingparent timeline and the child timeline in response to generating the child timeline.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 13, wherein the timeline module is further operable to modify a first timeline, wherein the first timeline is dynamically-linked to a

second timeline such that the second timeline is associated with a portion of the first timeline, determine if the modification affects the first timeline at the portion of the first timeline associated with second timeline, and, if the modification affects the first timeline at the portion of the first timeline associated with second timeline, then modify the second timeline in the same way as the first timeline.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage device storing a set of computer-executable instructions implementing a method for a computer-implemented method for generating a child timeline, comprising the steps of:

selecting a portion of an-existinga parent timeline;

generating the child timeline based on the portion of the existingparent timeline,
wherein the child timeline comprises at least one data item from the portion
of the existingparent timeline; and

dynamically-linking the child timeline to the existingparent timeline such that when
the parent timeline is updated, the child timeline is automatically updated.

18. (Currently Amended) The storage device of Claim 17 further comprising the step of displaying through a graphical user interface the interrelationship between the existingparent timeline and the child timeline in response to generating the child timeline.

19. (Currently Amended) The storage device of Claim 17 wherein the step of selecting the portion of the existingparent timeline comprises selecting the portion of the existingparent timeline in response to placing an icon onto the existingparent timeline.

20. (Currently Amended) The storage device of Claim 17 wherein the step of generating a child timeline comprises establishing a timeline comprising a first end representing a time corresponding to a location on the portion of existingthe parent timeline and a second end corresponding to another location on the portion of existingthe parent timeline.

21. (Currently Amended) The storage device of Claim 17 wherein the step of dynamically-linking the child timeline to the existingparent timeline comprises the steps of: associating the child timeline with the portion of the existingparent timeline; and modifying the child timeline in response to modifying the portion of the existingparent timeline, wherein the modification to the child timeline is the same as the modification to the portion of the existingparent timeline.

22. (Original) A computer-readable storage device storing a set of computer-executable instructions implementing a computer-implemented method for modifying timeline information, wherein the first timeline is dynamically-linked to a second timeline such that the second timeline is associated with a portion of the first timeline, comprising the steps of:

modifying the first timeline;
determining if the modification affects the first timeline at the portion of the first timeline associated with second timeline; and
if the modification affects the first timeline at the portion of the first timeline associated with second timeline, then modifying the second timeline in the same way as the first timeline.